

DOCUMENT RESUME

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[Operational Testing of Foreign Built Weapons Systems].
PSAD-78-131; B-163058. July 25, 1978. 2 pp. + enclosure (1 pp.).

Report to Secretary, Department of Defense; by Jerome H.
Stolarow, Director, Procurement and Systems Acquisition Div.

Issue Area: Federal Procurement of Goods and Services:
Definition of Performance Requirements in Relation to Need
of the Procuring Agency (1902).

Contact: Procurement and Systems Acquisition Div.

Budget Function: National Defense: Weapon Systems (057).

Congressional Relevance: House Committee on Armed Services;
Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Authority: DOD Directive 5000.3.

A survey was performed of the Department of Defense's (DOD's) conduct of operational test and evaluation (OT&E) of foreign built weapon systems purchased or under consideration for procurement by the Army and Navy. Generally, the operational testing of foreign systems was performed effectively. There are currently no regulations governing the testing of foreign built systems although Army, Navy, and Air Force officials felt that foreign equipment is subject to the same general test policies as domestically produced equipment. By not clearly setting forth regulations for testing these systems, the potential for problems exists. The AV-8A aircraft was procured before operational testing was performed, and there are plans for the F&ST to be procured prior to operational testing. In the past, many weapons systems that were procured before testing was completed required costly retrofits and/or had degraded capabilities. Regulations should be established which would require the Services' operational test and evaluation organizations to perform OT&E on a foreign system prior to the procurement decision. (RBS)

1099



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

PROCUREMENT AND SYSTEMS
ACQUISITION DIVISION

B-163058

JULY 25, 1978

The Honorable
The Secretary of Defense

Attention: Assistant for Audit Reports
Room 3A336
ASD (Comptroller)

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The General Accounting Office performed a survey of the Department of Defense's conduct of operational test and evaluation (OT&E) of foreign built weapon systems. Our survey covered nine foreign built systems purchased or under consideration for procurement by the Army and Navy (see appendix for a list of these systems.) We did not include any Air Force systems in the survey because we were advised by Air Force officials that they had not procured or operationally tested any major foreign systems.

We found that generally the operational testing of foreign systems was performed effectively although in one case, the AV-8A, procurement was carried out before operational testing was performed. In another case, that of the RAST, procurement is planned before testing will be performed.

We did note that there are currently no regulations governing the testing of foreign built systems. The military services' implementation of DOD Directive 5000.3, which establishes policy for conducting test and evaluation of defense systems by military departments and defense agencies, does not address the operational testing of foreign systems.

Army, Navy, and Air Force officials told us that, although not specifically mentioned in their regulations, foreign equipment is subject to the same general test policies as domestically produced equipment. Nevertheless, we believe that by not clearly setting forth in regulations or in other written guidance the requirements for testing these systems, the potential for problems exist. As mentioned previously, the AV-8A aircraft was procured before operational testing was performed and plans are for the RAST to be procured prior to operational testing. In the past, many weapon systems that were procured before testing was completed required costly retrofits and/or had degraded capabilities.

Accordingly, we recommend that regulations be established which would require the Services' operational test and evaluation organizations to perform required OT&E on a foreign system prior to the procurement decision.

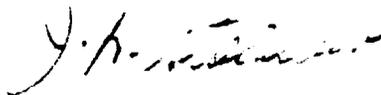
We recognize that there will be instances where the developing country has already performed OT&E. In these cases we believe that it would be desirable for the military services' test organizations to review the available test data and determine if additional testing is necessary.

The Army and Navy operational test organizations generally agreed with our observations and we were told that the Air Force is in the process of amending their regulations to require that foreign systems be subjected to the same OT&E policies and procedures as domestically produced equipment.

As you know, section 236 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 requires the head of a Federal agency to submit a written statement on actions taken on our recommendations to the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Government Operations not later than 60 days after the date of the report and to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with the agency's first request for appropriations made more than 60 days after the date of the report.

Copies of this letter are being sent to the Director, Office of Management and Budget; the Chairmen, Senate and House Committees on Appropriations and Armed Services; Chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations; the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; and the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Sincerely yours,



J. H. Stoiarow
Director

Systems Included in SurveyARMY

MAG-58 Armor machine gun -- Belgium

Heckler and Koch submachine gun -- Federal Republic of Germany

81 mm mortar -- United Kingdom

M.F.N. 10 ton truck -- Federal Republic of Germany

NAVY

AV-8A Harrier -- United Kingdom

Helio Recovery Assistance Secure and Traverse (RAST) System -- Canada

PENGUIN MK-2 missile -- Norway

MK-75 gun mount -- Italy

MK-92 fire control system -- Netherlands